

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 05503 161459Z
ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CA-01 DPW-01 AID-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5643
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5503

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, SREF, ET
SUBJ: ICRC EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE OGADEN SUFFERING

1. ICRC REP JEAN FRANCOIS BOREL CALLED ON POLCOUNS SEPT 15 TO LEAVE COPY OF ICRC APPEAL SENT THIS WEEK TO ALL NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS FOR FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO ASSIST NEEDY PERSONS ON BOTH SIDES OF OGADEN CONFLICT (TEXT SUBMITTED SEPT 14 IN EVEN NOT ALREADY RECEIVED). ACCORDING TO BOREL, SWEDEN AND UK HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED TO APPEAL, LATTER BY DONATING 112,500 WORTH OF TENTS, WITH OXFAM CONTRIBUTING MEDICINE VALUED AT 125,000.

2. DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH EPMG OFFICIALS, BOREL HAD LEARNED THAT ONE OF MOST URGENT NEEDS IS WHEAT FLOUR TO FEED OGADEN POPULATION, WHICH IS CUT OFF FROM ITS NORMAL SOURCE OF SUPPLY BY TRAIN FROM DJIBOUTI. ACCORDING TO FORMER MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AYALEW MANDEFRO, LARGE QUANTITIES OF WHEAT FLOUR ARE PRESENTLY STORED AT PORT OF ASSAB, BUT PREVENTED FROM BEING TRANSPORTED TO WAR ZONE, OWING TO LOGISTIC DIFFICULTIES AND MILITARY PRIORITIES. AYALEW ASKED WHETHER ICRC COULD LO-
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CATE FOREIGN AIR TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE, PREFERABLY OF C-130 VARIETY CAPABLE OF LANDING AT ASSAB, FOR TEMPORARY USE IN SHUTTLING FLOUR TO DIRE DAWA. NEED WOULD CONTINUE FOR APPROXIMATELY 2-3 MONTHS. BOREL SAID HE HAD ALREADY APPROACHED FRANCE, BRITAIN AND SWEDEN ABOUT THIS REQUEST, BUT AYALEW IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID THAT, IF NECESSARY, EPMG WOULD EVEN BE WILL-

ING TO CONSIDER ADMITTING US MILITARY PLANE FOR PURPOSE.
POSE.

3. BOREL HAS HAD HIS DIFFICULTIES WITH EPMG IN
ATTEMPTING TO GAIN ACCESS TO PRISONERS OF WAR AND TO
MAKE FIRST-HAND SURVEY OF RELIEF NEEDS OF CIVILIAN
POPULATION AND DISPLACED PERSONS. HE HAS SPOKEN TO
ONLY THREE PRISONERS TO DATE AND HAS BEEN TOLD THAT
TOTAL NUMBER IS ONLY FOUR, CONTRARY TO OFFICIAL
ETHIOPIAN COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING CAPTURE OF PRISONERS
TOTALING SOME 1500. THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE STICKY
POINT IN ICRC NEGOTIATIONS HERE, BUT BOREL INDICATED
THAT RELIEF OPERATION WILL PROBABLY GO FORWARD
ANYWAY.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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